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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of V.J. Flanigan
Serial No. 10/081,521
Filed February 22, 2002
Confirmation No. 2948
For PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR THE DESTRUCTIVE DISTILLATION OF
RUBBER

Art Unit 1764

September 17, 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT B

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

SIR:

Please enter the following amendments prior to examination
of the above-referenced application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new claims:

26. (new) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19 further comprising means for monitoring weight loss of the rubber in the distillation chamber as a result of pyrolysis.

27. (new) The apparatus as set forth in claim 26 wherein the weight loss monitoring means comprises a load cell.

28. (new) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19 wherein the heating means associated with said distillation chamber comprises radiant heating tubes in which a mixture of a hydrocarbon and an oxygen-containing gas is combusted.

29. (new) The apparatus as set forth in claim 28 wherein the oxygen-containing gas is air.

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